

CONTENTMENT - “*An Inside Job*”

Texts: 1 Timothy 6:6-7

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.

Proverbs 11:28 (MSG)

A life devoted to things is a dead life, a stump; a God-shaped life is a flourishing tree.

How can we have contentment in a restless world full of discontent? People these days are constantly living in a state of discontentment. Many of us are trying to fill a void of some kind in our lives, and unfortunately, ***we try to fill that void with things that can't satisfy.***

Through scripture and as believers, we are commanded to be content with all we have in life.

FINDING FULFILMENT APART FROM GOD

- ***Many people think that material possessions can give them contentment.***

The desire to acquire becomes the goal of their lives.

They have been persuaded to believe that having more will make them more happy, more important and more secure, not realising that **all these things can only offer temporary relief.**
Your value is not determined by your valuables.

- ***Many people also are driven or finding satisfaction by the need for approval.***

They are trying to earn the approval of others. But trying to please everyone is the key to ultimate failure, because you cannot please everyone.

We look to fill the void with possessions or money and approval of others, but we only end up wanting more.

Desiring for more is like sitting in a rocking chair, it gives you something to do or something to enjoy but you are not getting anywhere.

DESIRING FOR THINGS IS NOT A BAD THING.

God wants us to desire. God moves in our desires.

Mark 11:24 - What things so ever you desire, when you pray, believe that you will receive them, and you shall have them.

But we should be wise enough that our desires do not become so big or bigger than God, that it becomes the very purpose of our existence and that God is now your servant, and your desire has become your god.

No thing and nothing in this world can bring fulfilment and inward contentment to us apart from God.

UNFULFILLED DESIRE

The no. 1 cause of relationship break-up is not money but ***unfulfilled desire!***

There are people who don't have a problem with money and yet they still look for some other kind of fulfilment - It can be a car, a new house, a new furniture, a better position, trying to climb the corporate ladder etc.

What are we going to do about it?

It is not a problem that we can resolve but an ongoing tension that we need to manage.

How much that desire will drive you is dependent on how you manage that within you.

Prov. 13:12

Hope deferred (unfulfilled desire) makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

Unfulfilled desire will make our heart sick and this will most likely lead to frustration and eventually lead us to anger.

And anger will drive people to do crazy things, irrational things.

Additional ref. Ps. 37:8; James 1:20; Eph. 4:26-27; Matt. 5:22

Ex. *Cain*. Genesis 4:3-8

Cain was an angry man because he had an unfulfilled desire in his life. That unfulfilled desire - made his heart sick – made his heart not well – and because his heart was not well, he did things that were not well, not right.

God said to him...

7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”

**HERE IS THE KEY - WE NEED TO
RULE/MASTER OUR UNFULFILLED DESIRE
BECAUSE IF WE DON'T, IT WILL RULE AND
MASTER US!**

***True contentment is something we can't find
in things, people, events and circumstances.
It can only be discovered within our hearts - *in
our inward conviction.****

Contentment must be based on our conviction.
Contentment is more than just an emotional
hype, it's ***a peaceful ease of heart and mind.***

**True biblical contentment is a conviction that
Christ's power and provision is sufficient for
every circumstance.**

How do we find true contentment in life?

1. True contentment comes through Christ.

Read ***Phil. 4:11-13.***

Only through Christ and His enabling power
working in us can we be content in all kinds of
situation in life.

**2. True contentment comes as we live a
godly life.**

Read ***Timothy 6:6-8.***

Living a godly life simplifies and focuses our life in doing the main thing and it prepares us for eternity. Your life is focused and purposeful. It takes you out of the rat race and chaos of life.

3. True contentment comes by trusting God's grace and sufficiency.

Read ***2 Cor. 12:9-10.***

God's grace is sufficient for all your needs. At your weakest, that is when you experience God's mighty power.

4. True contentment comes when we understand that God is at work on our behalf.

Read ***Romans 8:28.***

In whatever circumstances you may be in right now, He is still working things for your sake and for your own good.

Remember, God is for you and not against you.

5. True contentment comes when we delight ourselves in the Lord.

Read ***Psalms 37:4.***

When we delight ourselves in God, God starts to reveal the true desires of our hearts, desires that we have not even thought of or imagined.

The only place you can find true contentment is in Christ.

Real contentment can only be found in that which cannot be taken away from you - *your relationship with God.*

Contentment is not having what you want, it's wanting what you have.

Only when we have Christ can we truly find fulfilment in life.

Our hearts will remain restless until we rest our hearts in Him.